

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-20 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 AGR-20

IO-14 /203 W

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R 092033Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6485

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 1223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UY

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S NEWS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 084239 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO IN MAY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE REVIEWED URUGUAY'S POSITION IN RECENT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, WASHINGTON MFM, AND ATLANTA OASGA. MINISTER ALSO DISCUSSED PANAMA, CUBA, BRAZIL, CHILE, AND LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. 2-1/2 HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE WAS DEDICATED TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S REVIEW OF URUGUAY'S POSITION AT RECENT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. UNDERLYING THEME TO LOCAL PRESS WAS THE EXTENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE AND THE GRAVITY OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING URUGUAY BECAUSE OF INCREASED COST FOR THE ITEMS THE COUNTRY IMPORTS AND THE NATION'S DECLINING EXPORT MARKETS.

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THE MINISTER CALLED ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DESPITE BEING

THEMSELVES AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, TO CONTINUE ASSISTING DEVELOPING NATIONS.

3. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON THE FUTURE OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN COOPERATION, THE MINISTER EMPHASIZED THE "FAVORABLE DISPOSITION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER" INCLUDING HIS COMMITMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT PLACE NEW RESTRICTIONS ON LATIN AMERICAN TRADE. MINISTER BLANCO NOTED THAT TRADE IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR URUGUAY THAN ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER IS ALSO IMPORTANT. HE STATED THAT URUGUAY IS INTERESTED NOT ONLY IN THE REDUCTION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES ON LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS, BUT ALSO IN THE PARTICIPATION OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRIES. URUGUAY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTED, IS AMPLY STIMULATING LOCAL INVESTMENT BY SUCH COMPANIES.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER HIGHLIGHTED THE PROGRESS IN BILATERAL U.S.-PANAMA DISCUSSIONS ON THE CANAL AS THE "MOST TANGIBLE POSITIVE RESULT OF THE 'SPIRIT OF TLAQUELOTE'." URUGUAY, HE STATED, AS THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA, SOLIDLY SUPPORTS PANAMA'S ASPIRATIONS.

5. ON CUBA THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT THE ISSUE OF CUBA'S RETURN TO THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IS NOT AN "ESSENTIAL" ONE AND DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING IT IN WASHINGTON AND ATLANTA WERE FAR LESS "SPECTACULAR" THAN THE PRESS HAS BEEN LED TO BELIEVE.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD PRESS THAT SIGNIFICANT NEW AGREEMENTS SIMILAR TO THE ECONOMIC ACCORD RECENTLY SIGNED WITH ARGENTINA (MVD 1167 NOTAL) WOULD BE SIGNED SHORTLY WITH BRAZIL AND CHILE.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT IT IS HIS INTENTION TO VISIT LEBANON, ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE BEFORE JULY IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES SCHEDULED DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.
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